



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 56297-5010-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Martin J. GOLDBERG *et al.* )  
 )  
Application No.: 09/776,770 )  
 )  
Filed: February 6, 2001 )  
 )  
For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR )  
 )  
AMPLIFYING DETECTABLE SIGNALS )  
 )  
IN SPECIFIC BINDING ASSAYS )

Group Art Unit: 1634  
Examiner: J. Souaya

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, which is timely made in light of the further explanation of the grounds of rejection presented in the Final Office Action mailed October 28, 2002 (Paper No. 12), for which the period for response continues through January 28, 2003.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for detecting a nucleic acid target comprising:

- a) hybridizing a nucleic acid target, comprising a target nucleic acid sequence, to a nucleic acid probe, comprising a probe nucleic acid sequence, wherein the target comprises a binding ligand;
- b) contacting the hybridized target with a receptor comprising multiple sites capable of binding the binding ligand to complex the receptor to the binding ligand;
- c) contacting the receptor with an signal amplification reagent, comprising a plurality of the binding ligands, to complex the signal amplification reagent to the receptor; and
- d) detecting the presence of the complexed signal amplification reagent.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the signal amplification reagent comprises an antibody.

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